Terrors of Dracula

NOV. 1979

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ENTER THE BLOODY WORLD OF DRACULA WHERE TALES OF FANGED HORROR DRIPS A GLISTENING RED

featuring:

BONE-RATTLING TERROR IN

VAMPIRE

HORROR SHATTERS ALL IN

EVIL BLACK CATS

FROM THE PIT OF DARKNESS CAME

THE ALIEN MONSTERS

THE Fangs

the SPIDER

PLUS other tales

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Terrors of Dracula

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THE EVIL BLACK CATS

BURTON PASCAL, IN SEARCH OF THE MEMOIRS OF HIS ANCESTORS, SAILED FROM AMERICA FOR CHARLONS, A WILD HIGHLAND OF NORTHERN FRANCE, STEEPED IN FOLKLORE AND STILL ALIVE WITH TALES OF WITCHCRAFT AND BLACK MAGIC!

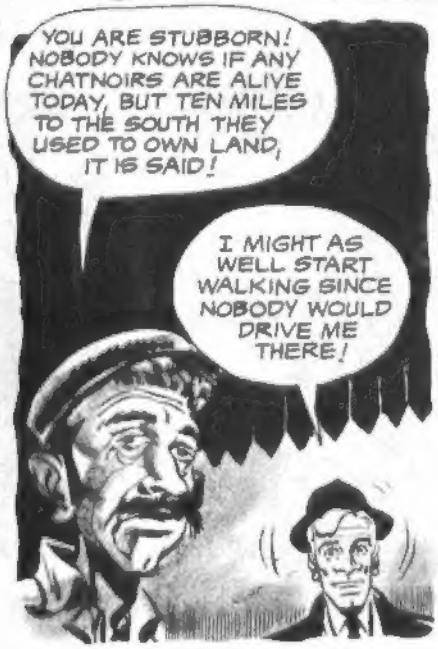
RRROWR! TEAR HIS EYES OUT! HE CANNOT ESCAPE! TODAY HE SHALL JOIN OUR ANCIENT CULT!

YEOWWRR, THE AWFUL FLAME! I CANNOT GET CLOSE TO HIM!

SO THE CHATNOIR LEGEND IS TRUE, I SHOULD HAVE HEEDED ALL THE WARNINGS! NOW I FIGHT ALONE AGAINST THESE EVIL CATS!

BURTON TRIED AGAIN...
NOT YOU TOO? SAY, WHAT IS THERE ABOUT THE CHATNOIRS THAT PROVOKES SUCH FEAR?
SACRÊ! IT IS A NAME ACCURSED! I CANNOT HELP!

AFTER SEVERAL MORE ATTEMPTS, BURTON'S QUESTIONS DREW AN ANSWER...
CHARLONS MUST BE FULL OF SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE! WHY DO THEY FREEZE AT THE MENTION OF CHATNOIR?
THERE ARE OLD LEGENDS CONNECTED WITH THE NAME, TALES OF WITCHCRAFT AND WILD ORGIES WHICH HAVE NOT DIED OUT! M'SIEU, TAKE THE TRAIN AND GO BACK TO HAVRE!


YOU ARE STUBBORN! NOBODY KNOWS IF ANY CHATNOIRS ARE ALIVE TODAY, BUT TEN MILES TO THE SOUTH THEY USED TO OWN LAND, IT IS SAID!
I MIGHT AS WELL START WALKING SINCE NOBODY WOULD DRIVE ME THERE!

BURTON FOLLOWED THE WINDING ROAD INTO THE DESERTED COUNTRYSIDE...
NOT A SOUL FOR MILES AROUND AND IT'S BEGINNING TO GET DARK!

NO SENSE GOING ANY FURTHER! HEY, I'VE GOT COMPANY THAT'S THE BIGGEST CAT I'VE EVER SEEN!

I'LL BE JIGGERED! THE ANIMALS TRYING TO GET ME TO FOLLOW IT! LEAD ON TABBY!

LATER...
LOOKS LIKE AN OLDTIME INN AND THE LIGHTS MEAN THERE'S SOMEONE AT HOME!

SO I'VE FOUND THEM! LES CHATNOIRS! THAT'S FRENCH FOR THE BLACK CATS! NOW I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT BLACK CAT... WHERE DID THE BEAST GO? IT'S DISAPPEARED!
LES CHATNOIRS

WELCOME TO THE INN OF THE CHATNOIRS, STRANGER! WE DO NOT HAVE VISITORS OFTEN! HOW DID YOU STUMBLE INTO OUR HOUSE?
THE BLACK CAT BROUGHT ME HERE! IT SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED!

AAH, THE CAT? YES, YES, THE CAT... SHE HAS GONE TO THE BARN, BUT TELL ME WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO CHARLONS?
I AM A RELATIVE FROM AMERICA, MY MOTHER WAS A CHATNOIR! BEFORE SHE DIED, SHE TOLD ME THAT HER ANCESTORS LIVE NEAR CHARLONS!

WHEN BURTON HAD EXPLAINED HIS SEARCH FOR THE CHATNOIR MEMOIRS...
THE MEMOIRS MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN THE INN! THERE WILL BE TIME TO SEARCH TOMORROW! NOW, LET MY DAUGHTER AMALIE SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM?

AMALIE, WHY DO THE TOWNSPEOPLE FEAR THE NAME CHATNOIR SO MUCH?
WE KEEP TO OURSELVES, SO THEY DISLIKE US!

THE ROOM WAS COLD WITH A CUTTING ICINESS...
BRRR, THE PLACE IS LIKE AN ICEBOX... AS IF IT HADN'T BEEN HEATED FOR CENTURIES! NOW WHAT'S THAT? COME IN!

W-WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THE FIRE! THE FIRE! GET IT OUT-- QUICKLY! WE CANNOT STAND... I-I MEAN, THE CHIMNEY IS BROKEN! IT IS DANGEROUS!

AFTER THE FIRE WAS PUT OUT... BURTON SANK INTO A TROUBLED SLEEP...
CAN'T UNDERSTAND... CHATNOIRS TERRIFIED BY FIRE... GETTING HARD FOR ME... TO BREATHE... SOMETHING PRESSING ON MY CHEST...
WHA...? WHAT'S THIS... GET OFF, YOU DEVIL!
MEEOOOW
YE-ECH! IT'S AFTER MY THROAT!
WHAM
I'VE NEVER SEEN A CAT ATTACK LIKE THIS!
THERE! THAT DOES IT!
POW
BUT AS BURTON LOOKED DOWN INTO THE COURTYARD OF THE INN...
THE CAT'S GONE! NOW WHAT'S THE OLD WOMAN DOING OUT AT THIS HOUR? SHE LOOKS STARK RAVING MAD!
THE NEXT MORNING...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR MOTHER, AMALIE?
SHE... SHE FELL ON THE STAIRS, COUSIN! BUT WE ARE VERY ANGRY THAT YOU BEAT OUR CAT!

SHE ATTACKED ME! I HAD TO DEFEND MYSELF!
YOU ARE MISTAKEN! SHE MEANT NO HARM! COME, HELP ME LOOK FOR HER!

SHE MUST HAVE RUN AWAY!
AMALIE, I CAME HERE LOOKING FOR THE CHATNOIR'S MEMOIRS, BUT, LOOKING AT YOU MAKES ME FEEL I'VE FOUND SOMETHING MUCH MORE IMPORTANT!

LET ME GO, YOU FOOL! YOU ARE NOT ONE OF US... YET!
AMALIE, I'M MAD ABOUT YOU!

YEOW! AMALIE! WHAT?
MRROWWRRR! HA HA! I TOLD YOU TO LET ME GO, YOU FOOL!

DID I SEE HER CHANGE INTO A CAT OR AM I GOING INSANE! AMALIE, WAIT!

AMALIE, WHERE DID-- UGH! THAT CAT, IT'S AFTER ME AGAIN!

UGHH, THIS THING ISN'T A CAT! IT'S A MONSTER FROM ANOTHER WORLD! NO CAT HAS THIS STRENGTH!

BURTON IS SHOCKED AS A WEIRD TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE...
... I'M SEEING THINGS! AMALIE, YOU ARE THE SAME CREATURE AS THE CAT?
MRROOWWR...
AND THE SAME GIRL YOU TRIED TO MAKE LOVE TO! NOW YOU KNOW ALL! THE CHATNOIR LINE IS ACCURSED! WITCHES' BLOOD COURSES THROUGH OUR VEINS!
AND FROM BEHIND HIM...
YOU CAME FROM THE CHATNOIR MEMOIRS! DO YOU THINK WE WILL PART WITH THEM AND LET THE WORLD KNOW WE STILL LIVE? NEVER!
NO, YOU WILL BECOME ONE OF US! YOUR MOTHER'S LINE ESCAPED THE CHATNOIR CURSE, BUT ONCE THE WITCHES' RITES ARE PERFORMED YOU SHALL BE A TRUE CHATNOIR!
PARALYZED WITH TERROR, BURTON'S RESISTANCE WAS FUTILE...
AMALIE, FETCH THE NEATS BLOOD, WOLF'S PHLEGM AND MANDRAKE ROOT! THE RITES MUST BEGIN AT ONCE!
REMEMBER, THOSE SCARS WILL NEVER LEAVE YOUR FACE! HA HA HA!
QUICK... THE POTION...! HURRY!
I WON'T BECOME A BEAST OF A CHATNOIR!
WHAM
CORNERED BY THE HELLISH TRIO, BURTON WAS FORCED BACK INTO THE HOUSE...
HE'S TRAPPED! HE'LL NEVER GET AWAY FROM THE HOUSE! AFTER HIM!
FOR THE MOMENT... I'M SAFE! NO I FORGOT! THE MONSTERS CAN CHANGE THEIR FORMS AT WILL!
COME BACK, YOU FOOL! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE CHATNOIRS!

BURTON SUDDENLY RECALLED THE CHATNOIR'S TERRIBLE FEAR OF FIRE ...
IT'S MY ONLY HOPE! THERE'S NOTHING A WITCH FEARS MORE THAN FLAMES!

BACK! THIS FLAME WILL BURN YOUR BLACK HEARTS!
FIRE; FIRE! WE MUST NOT BE BURNED!

SPREADING A CURTAIN OF FLAME THROUGH THE HOUSE, BURTON WON HIS FREEDOM...
THEY'LL NEVER GET THE FLAMES PUT OUT! I BURNED MY MANUSCRIPT, BUT THE CURSED CHATNOIR LINE IS FINISHED!

OUTSIDE THE FLAMING PYRE, BURTON COLLAPSED!
AAAAIIII! THE CHATNOIRS BURN AGAIN!

HOURS LATER BURTON WAS AWAKENED...
AAAIII, IT WAS LIKE WAKING THE DEAD! YOU LOOK ALL RIGHT! I BROUGHT THE GENDARMES JUST IN CASE YOU MIGHT HAVE RUN INTO TROUBLE!
THE INN? THE CHATNOIRS? THEY'RE GONE!

BUT THE ASHES ARE, STONE COLD?
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, M'SIEUR? HERE, LOOK AT THIS PLAQUE!
ON THIS SPOT WERE THE CHATNOIRS TRIED AND BURNED AS WITCHES IN THEIR HOME 1796

IT'S A GOOD THING NO EVIL OVERTOOK YOU! ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN ON THIS ACCURSED GROUND!
YES... AND THESE SCARS WILL ALWAYS REMIND ME!
The End

THE HUNGRY VAMPIRE

WILHEM! A VAMPIRE IS RUSHING TOWARD US!

VAMPIRE? B-BUT IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE IN THIS DAY AND AGE! BUT... YAH-H! IT'S REAL... RUN!

ON THE BLACK FOREST REGION OF WESTPHALIA IS THE ANCIENT CASTLE OF THE POWERFUL HOHENSTAUFEN FAMILY WHICH RULED THEIR DUKEDOM WITH AN IRON HAND FOR SIX HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE MYSTERIOUS EXTINTION OF DUKE LUDWIG IN 1563! THEN, TO THE GLOOMY HOHENSTAUFEN CASTLE, IN MODERN TIMES, CAME ROBERT TELEMAN AND HIS WIFE JESSICA, CO-CURATORS OF THE CHICAGO MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN SEARCH OF A LOST WALL TAPESTRY...

DUKE LUDWIG WAS A DEMON AND A TYRANT! LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY SO YOU CAN JUDGE FOR YOURSELF!

"WHEN LUDWIG REACHED MANHOOD, HE WAS CONSUMED WITH HATRED AGAINST HIS FATHER...

LOOK AT ME! SHUT IN THE CASTLE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD BECAUSE OF MY CURSED MALADY! MY FATHER IS TO BLAME AND I WILL HAVE REVENGE!!

"NOT LONG AFTER, LUDWIG'S HATRED LED HIM TO PATRICIDE!"
AT LAST! MY HATRED IS FULFILLED!!

"THEN LUDWIG'S MIND CAME INTO INSANE NOTIONS..."
MY OWN SON MUST BE ACCURSED WITH THE HOHENSTAUFEN MALADY WHICH BEFELL UPON ME! I CANNOT STAND TO SEE HIM LIVE UNDER THIS BLACK, BROODING PLAGUE!

"LUDWIG SNUFFED OUT THE LIFE OF HIS ONLY SON..."
NAY! DO NOT KILL ME!
YES! THIS ENDS IT... FOREVER!

AH, I SEE YOU EMBROIDER MY TAPESTRY, AUNT GERTA!
YES, LUDWIG AND A TRUE PICTURE OF YOU! SON-SLAYER, BLOOD-SOAKED TYRANT! YOU ARE VERMIN! AND SO SHALL I WEAVE YOUR HISTORY!

"WHEN THE TAPESTRY WAS COMPLETED, LUDWIG LAY ON HIS DEATH BED..."
FAITHFUL RETAINERS! THESE ARE MY LAST WISHES! BURY ME IN YON COFFIN IN THE SECRET PLACE! WRAP MY BODY IN THIS TAPESTRY SO IT NEVER SEES THE LIGHT OF DAY!
YES, SIRE!

A STRANGE STORY, ULRICH! BUT WHAT WAS HIS DISEASE? WHERE DOES HE LIE BURIED?
I DO NOT KNOW OF WHAT DISEASE HE DIED, BUT, HE'S BURIED SOMEWHERE IN OR NEAR THE CASTLE AND GOOD RIDDANCE!

THE NEXT DAY INSIDE THE CASTLE...
... IT'S UNUSUAL... EVERY OPENING IS DRAPED SO THAT NO SUNLIGHT CAN ENTER!
I NOTICED THAT, TOO!

THE SEARCHERS ENTER A DARK CHAMBER...
IT'S HORRIBLE! THOSE MEN MUST HAVE DIED IN THEIR CHAINS!
THIS PROVES THAT LUDWIG WAS A FIEND!
LOOK! TORTURE INSTRUMENTS! AN "IRON MAIDEN"... THUMB SCREWS.. IRON BOOTS... WRACKS! LUDWIG'S PASSION FOR CRUELTY MAKES ULRICH'S STORY RING TRUE!
STEVE, BRAD, TAKE JESSICA OUTSIDE AND LOOK FOR A BURIAL VAULT! I'LL PROBE AROUND HERE!
DON'T BE TOO LONG, ROBERT!
I'LL TRY CUTTING INTO THIS FLAGSTONE FLOOR YEOW! THE STONE IS SHARP! A CHIP CUT INTO MY WRIST... BETTER TEND TO IT! I'M LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD!
ROBERT'S FRESHLY DRAWN BLOOD SEEPED BETWEEN THE FLAGSTONES...
THE ANCIENT STONES WERE HURLED ASIDE, AND FROM HIS CENTURIES-OLD TOMB AROSE LUDWIG, THE TERRIBLE... LAST OF THE HOHENSTAUFENS!
WHO DARES ROUSE ME FROM MY GRAVE?
AM I RESTORED TO SEE MY CASTLE LOOTED? MY PRECIOUS TAPESTRIES GONE? AND THEN THE NOBLE NAME OF HOHENSTAUFEN FLUNG INTO THE DUST? I WILL CLAIM A LIFE FOR EACH TAPESTRY, AND THE LAST TAPESTRY, MY OWN, WILL NEVER BE FOUND!

A FEW MINUTES LATER WHEN ROBERT RETURNED...
THAT'S ODD! I NEVER FORCED UP THAT MANY STONES BEFORE I CUT MYSELF!
YOU MUST HAVE! NO ONE ELSE WAS HERE! PERHAPS YOU FORGOT!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR MY ADDLED BRAIN TODAY! BESIDES, IT'S GETTING TOO DARK TO WORK!
LET'S CALL IT A DAY! BESIDES THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW!

THAT NIGHT, LUDWIG STARTED HIS VENDETTA ON THE OUTSKIRTS!
WILHELM! A VAMPIRE IS RUSHING TOWARD US!
ARRR... YOU PEASANTS WILL PAY WITH YOUR BLOOD!

MY THROAT BURNS IN ANTICIPATION! THE ANCIENT CURSE WILL SOON BE SATED WHEN I DRINK BLOOD!

THE NEXT MORNING THE TOWN WAS AWAKENED BY..
HELP! HELP! WAKE UP! MURDER HAS BEEN COMMITED! MURDER!
MURDER? IMPOSSIBLE IN THIS TOWN!

SOON AFTER, IN NIGHTINGALE LANE...
WHAT CAUSED THESE AWFUL DEATHS, DOCTOR?
SOMEONE... OR "SOMETHING" STRANGLED THEM! I MUST INVESTIGATE FURTHER IN TOWN!

ANOTHER DAY OF FRUITLESS SEARCH IN THE CASTLE...
I'M SURE THAT TAPESTRY IS IN THE CASTLE, AND I WON'T LEAVE UNTIL I FIND IT!
IT'LL TURN UP!

LATER..
THE DOCTOR WANTS TO SEE YOU IN TOWN RIGHT AWAY, HERR TELEMAN! HE HAS FRIGHTFUL NEWS!
OKAY! I'LL HEAD RIGHT FOR TOWN! STEVE, YOU HELP ULRICH HOME!

BUT AS STEVE GUIDED ULRICH...
I DO NOT LIKE TO BE IN THESE HILLS WHEN IT IS DARK! IT IS TOO NEAR THE CASTLE!
TWO MORE VICTIMS TO REVENGE THE HOHENSTAUFEN NAME!

ACH! WHAT IS THIS? AIEEE! A FIEND HAS SET UPON US!
MY STOLEN TAPESTRIES WILL BE PAID FOR IN BLOOD!

AND NOW MY THIRST RISES! I MUST DRINK DEEP TO STILL THE CRAVING OF MY MALADY!

AN UNSEEN SHEEPHERDER WITNESS RACED INTO TOWN TO REPORT THE HORRIBLE INCIDENT...
I-I SAW ULRICH! HE.. ACH! I CANNOT DESCRIBE IT...
ULRICH? I LEFT HIM WITH STEVE! WHAT DID YOU SEE?

AN ARMED GROUP FOLLOWED THE QUAKING SHEPHERD...
IT WAS RIGHT HERE! A BLACK DEMON TORE THE LANTERNS OUT OF THEIR HANDS! IT WAS SHOUTING ABOUT STOLEN TAPESTRIES... AND THEN...
COME, WE WILL SEE FOR OURSELVES!

IT IS AS I SUSPECTED! NOTHING BUT A VAMPIRE COULD KILL LIKE THIS AND BLEED HIS VICTIMS DRY!
VAMPIRE?

IN TOWN, A DELEGATION VISITS THE TELEMANS...
I MUST ORDER YOU TO GIVE UP THIS SEARCH! YOU HAVE ROUSED THE HOHENSTAUFEN VAMPIRE!
LOOK, I CAME 7,000 MILES JUST TO FIND THAT TAPESTRY! AND NO VAMPIRE IS GOING TO STOP ME!
LATER, OUTSIDE THE CASTLE...
ROBERT.. PLEASE BE CAREFUL!
I WILL, BUT I THINK THIS VAMPIRE BUSINESS IS JUST NONSENSE!
THEN... IN THE CASTLE...
LOOK! A COMPLETE SUIT OF ARMOR! I'M GOING TO TRY IT ON FOR SIZE!
GREAT!
SINCE YOU'RE SO BUSY PLAYING "WHEN KNIGHTHOOD WAS IN FLOWER", I'M GOING EXPLORING!
JESSICA... KEEP WITHIN CALLING DISTANCE!
LATER...
MAYBE THE TAPESTRY IS IN THIS CHEST! I DON'T THINK ROBERT HAS BEEN IN THIS ROOM...
YOU HAVE DISCOVERED MY HIDING PLACE! I AM LUDWIG, THE LAST HOHENSTAUFEN!
H-HELP!
KEEP AWAY... OH-HH... I SLIPPED! I'M FALLING!
... THAT LIGHT! I CANNOT GO NEAR IT!

JESSICA'S SCREAMS ALERTED ROBERT..
JESSICA'S IN DANGER, BRAD! CHECK OUTSIDE! I'M GOING UPSTAIRS!

AS ROBERT CLANGED INTO LUDWIG'S SLEEPING CHAMBER..
MY OWN SON! IT IS HIS ARMOR! FORGIVE ME! I KILLED YOU TO SAVE YOU FROM THIS VAMPIRE AFFLICTION!
WHERE'S JESSICA? WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?

THE LIGHT! DON'T OPEN THE DRAPE! YAHH-H! I AM UNDONE!
GOOD LORD! HE'S DECOMPOSING BEFORE MY EYES! THIS WAS LUDWIG, THE VAMPIRE!

AND FROM THE TOWER WINDOW, ROBERT SAW JESSICA WAS SAFE..
I LANDED IN THE MOAT... I'M OKAY, ROBERT!
THAT'S A RELIEF! .. IT'S ALL OVER! THE VAMPIRE... COME UP HERE!

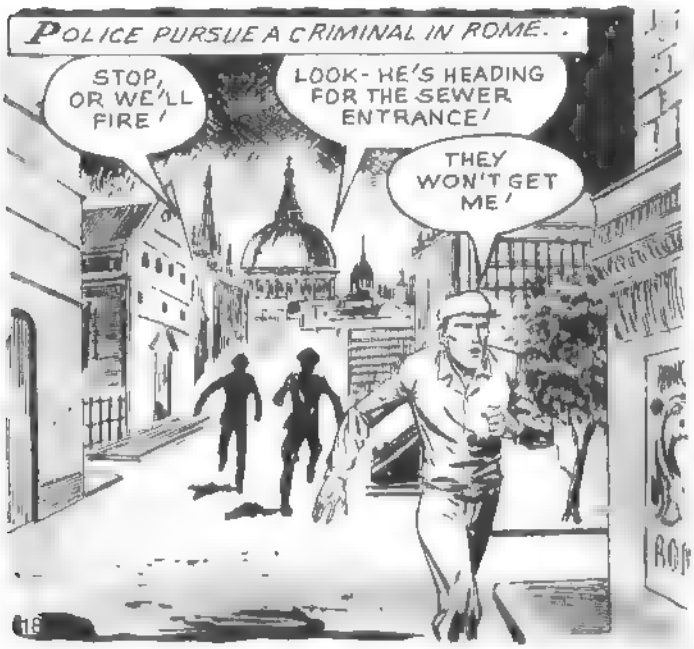
LUDWIG DISAPPEARED WHEN I TORE OPEN THE DRAPE AND LET SUNLIGHT IN! I FOUND A PILE OF DUST IN THIS CHEST.. HIS REMAINS!

LOOK! THE TAPESTRY! NO WONDER WE COULDN'T FIND IT! LUDWIG HAD IT BURIED WITH HIM!
BRRR! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

WEEKS LATER IN THE MEDIEVAL HALL OF THE CHICAGO MUSEUM...
THAT'S WHY LUDWIG HID THE TAPESTRY FROM THE WORLD! HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW HE WAS A VAMPIRE!
AT LEAST HE WILL NEVER WALK THE EARTH AGAIN!
THE END

UP FROM THE FETID STENCH OF ROME'S ANCIENT CATACOMBS SWARMED THE HORRIBLE ARMY—STRANGE AND SINISTER BEYOND BELIEF, SWORN TO DESTROY HUMANITY IN THEIR BONE CRUNCHING JAWS, SLAVERING AFTER HUMAN BLOOD!

WHERE THE FLESHEATERS DWELL



HE'S GETTING AWAY, SIGNOR COMMISSIONER!
NOT YET! I KNOW THESE SEWERS AS WELL AS HE DOES!

WHY DON'T YOU FIRE, SIGNOR?
NO, I WANT TO TAKE THIS ONE ALIVE IF I CAN! AFTER ALL, HE'S ONLY A PETTY THIEF!

UGH! THESE SEWER RATS GIVE ME THE CREEPS! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THEM!
DON'T BE AN OLD WOMAN! HURRY UP!

I'M CERTAIN HE DUCKED DOWN THIS WAY, AND THIS PASSAGE LEADS INTO THE OLD CATACOMBS, SO HE CAN'T GET FAR!

SUDDENLY THE TUNNEL IS FILLED WITH THE FRENZIED SCREAMS OF A MAN IN MORTAL TERROR.
FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN, SIGNOR, DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HORRIBLE! AND THAT WAS BANCO'S VOICE! DOWN THIS WAY!

THEIR FLASHLIGHTS PICK OUT A LEERING GROTESQUE THING.
GAAA! LOOK, IT'S BANCO! A MOMENT AGO HE WAS A MAN, NOW HE'S A SKELETON!
B-BUT WHAT COULD HAVE DONE THIS, SIGNOR?

THERE IS SOMETHING EVIL IN THIS PLACE! LET US GET OUT OF HERE AT ONCE!
KEEP YOUR NERVE, MAN! THERE MUST BE AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS, BUT WE'D BETTER REPORT BACK TO THE STATION!

BUT...
THE PASSAGE - IT'S BLOCKED NOW! B-BUT JUST A MOMENT AGO THERE WAS NO DOOR HERE!
WE MUST FIND ANOTHER WAY OUT AT ONCE!

WHILE DESPERATELY SEEKING A WAY OUT, THE MEN WANDER DEEPER INTO THE CATACOMBS..
PHEW, THAT SMELL IS HORRIBLE! THESE CAVERNS HAVE BEEN SEALED FOR CENTURIES!
WHAT'S THAT I HEAR?

YAAAAAAAA! SIGNOR, LOOK, THOSE THINGS!

MONSTERS - COMING AFTER US! THEY'LL TEAR US TO PIECES!
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE, MAN, RUN!
AGRRR
UBLLE

THEY TAKE REFUGE IN A SMALL ROOM
PERHAPS THIS OLD COFFIN AND THE BONES WILL STOP THEM!
WORK, MAN! STACK MORE BONES IN THE ENTRANCE!

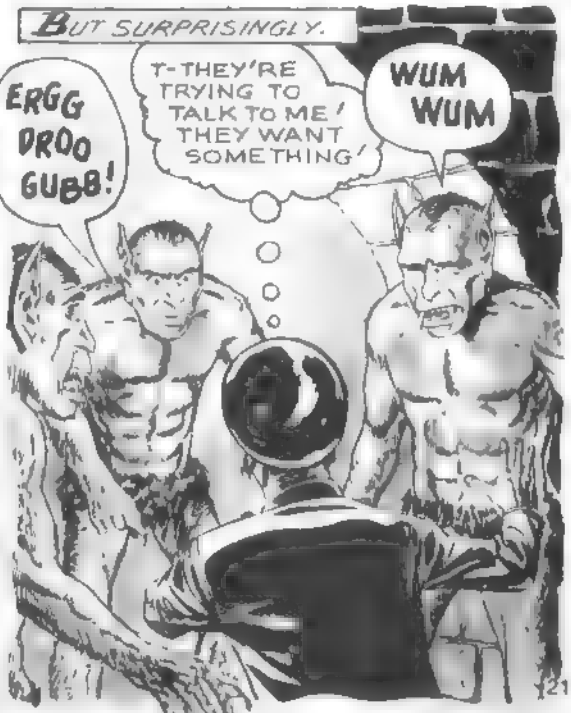
LOOK! ONE OF THOSE THINGS R-REACHING FOR US!
Y-YES! IT WILL GET US UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING!

...AND THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO- GIVE THEM A VICTIM AT ONCE!

GRUM-RRRRR GROUU
YOU, PIETRO! THEY WANT A VICTIM, SO LET IT BE YOU! OUT YOU GO!
NO! AAAAAA

SAVE ME! DON'T LET THEM.
EEEEEyAAAAAAAA

THERE IS A MOMENT OF DREADFUL RESPITE, THEN THE CREATURES COME CRASHING IN!
DNN-GAA GUMBVE!
T-THEY WANT ME NOW! UGH- WHAT MONSTERS THEY ARE- FIENDS OUT OF HADES!


BUT SURPRISINGLY.
ERGG DROO GUBB!
T-THEY'RE TRYING TO TALK TO ME! THEY WANT SOMETHING!
WUM WUM

THE FIERCE MONSTERS DO INDEED WANT TO MAKE A BARGAIN - AND AFTER A LONG TIME SIGNOR RENZI UNDERSTANDS WHAT THEY WANT! AT THE SAME TIME HE HATCHES A FIENDISH PLAN OF HIS OWN!
ALL RIGHT, YOU-THINGS! I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT, BUT REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST OBEY ME IN RETURN!
OOO-LA!

SOON AFTERWARD A REIGN OF TERROR BEGINS IN ROME! SIGNOR RENZI, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, SEES HIS CHANCE TO MAKE A FORTUNE!
THIS IS THE NIGHT! THOSE BRUTES SHOULD BE STRIKING NOW!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE VAULT OF THE BANK OF ROME...
W-WHAT! AN EARTHQUAKE! NO, SOMETHING COMING UP THROUGH THE FLOOR! I'D BETTER GET HELP AT ONCE!

BUT IT'S TOO LATE!
MOS-GLUR TUM BAB

AND THE WEIRD CREATURES, INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO FOLLOW SIGNOR RENZI'S ORDERS, LOOT THE VAULT OF MILLIONS IN GOLD!
BRAM WUG
SNORG
WUF

LATER, AS THE SIGNOR KEEPS A RENDEZVOUS IN THE GLOOMY CATACOMBS.
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, YOU BRUTES, AND DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE PAID!
GARN-LUB!
THEY'LL MAKE ME THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD BEFORE LONG, AND WHO WILL SUSPECT?

GRUM-BOO
UHR!
COME ALONG NOW AND GET YOUR (SHUDDER) REWARD! JUST DOWN HERE THE CATACOMBS RUN UNDER A REHABILITATION CENTER! YOU CAN HAVE THEM!

RIGHT UP THIS LADDER, NOW! IT LEADS INTO THE BARRACKS!
MMFFF
OOGLE

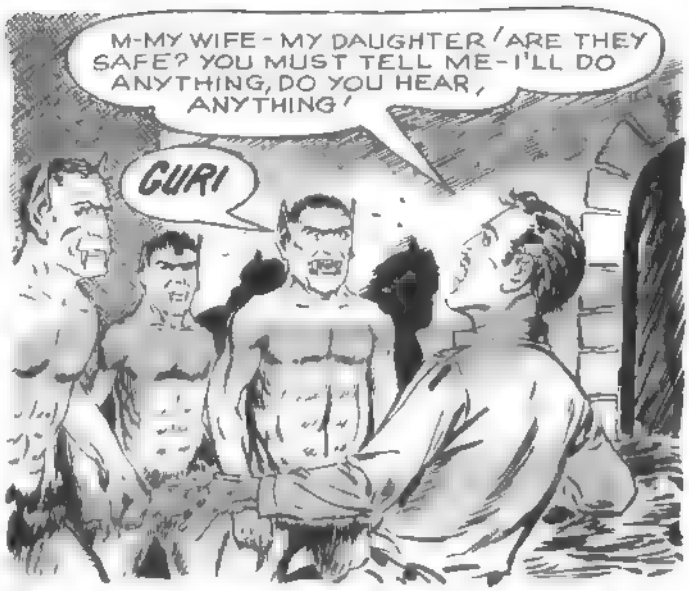
THIS IS A TERRIBLE TH NG I M DO NG! BUT I MUST! PROMISED THEM VICTIMS IN RE-TURN FOR OBEDIENCE, AND IF I DON'T GIVE THEM THESE PEOPLE, THEY'LL TAKE-ME!
FROM ABOVE COMES A SUDDEN HORRIBLE OUTCRY!
THOSE CREATURES! SAVE US! HELP!
AAA HELP!
EEEEE!

DORN PLU
N-NO! OHHHHHHH!

I CAN'T STAND THOSE TERRIBLE SOUNDS ANY LONGER! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I GO MAD!

TIME PASSES, AND SIGNOR RENZI ACCUMULATES ALL THE WEALTH THAT ONE MAN COULD WANT! AND NOW...
WHAT A TENDER SCENE - MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER, HAPPY AND UNSUSPECTING! IF THEY ONLY KNEW HOW THOSE CREATURES HAUNT ME - ALWAYS WANTING MORE VICTIMS!
I HAVE MORE MONEY THAN A DOZEN MEN COULD EVER SPEND, BUT IT'S NO GOOD UNLESS I CAN TAKE MY LOVED ONES AWAY AND ESCAPE THOSE FIENDS OF THE CATACOMBS!
AHH! THERE'S ONE OF THEM NOW, COME TO COMPLAIN BECAUSE THERE ARE NO MORE VICTIMS! WELL, MIGHT AS WELL HAVE THE SHOWDOWN NOW!
LISTEN AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND! YOU MUST GO BACK TO THE CATACOMBS FOREVER! IT'S BECOMING TOO DANGEROUS! NOW GET OUT!
WUGG!
I SAID GET OUT, YOU FOUL BEAST OF HADES! WE'RE ALL THROUGH! OUR BARGAIN IS OVER! OUT! OUT!
BUT SIGNOR RENZI IS SHOCKED FROM HIS HYSTERIA BY THE PATHETIC SCREAMS OF HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER...
GOOD HEAVENS, THEY'RE CARRYING THEM AWAY TO THE CATACOMBS, AND I'M POWERLESS TO STOP THEM!
EEEEEEE!
HELP!

FRANTICALLY SIGNOR RENZI FINDS A SECRET PASSAGE AND RACES TO THE RENDEZVOUS IN THE CATACOMBS.
I'VE GOT TO BE IN TIME! M-MAYBE THEY WON'T HARM THEM - PERHAPS THEY'RE ONLY TRYING TO BLUFF ME!


M-MY WIFE - MY DAUGHTER! ARE THEY SAFE? YOU MUST TELL ME - I'LL DO ANYTHING, DO YOU HEAR, ANYTHING!
GURI

THEN THE SIGNOR HEARS A HORRIBLE LAUGHTER BEHIND HIM AND TURNS TO SEE A SIGHT THAT SENDS HIS BRAIN REELING IN TORMENT!
SMUR DA!
AAAHHHHH

AND THE THINGS CLOSE IN
SNOO
MOFT
AFTER M-ME NOW! THEY'LL K-KILL ME TOO!

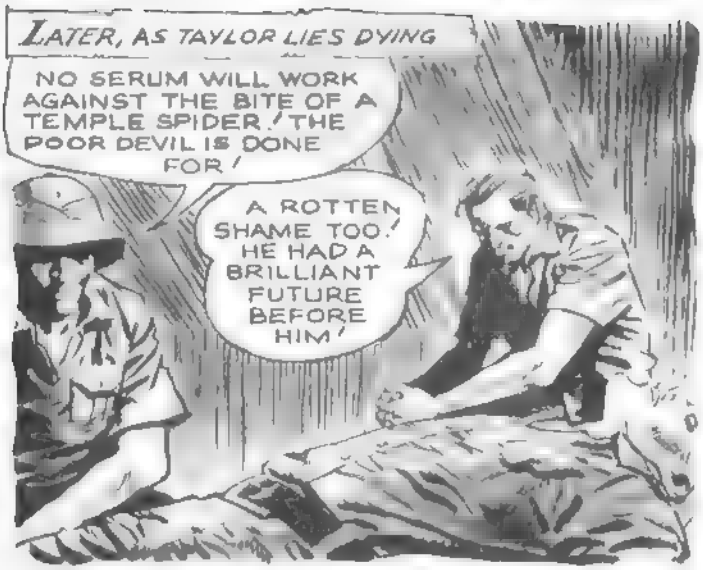
GNNNNNNNN

ERS-DA-ESTT-GN-BOR-TA *
* MEANING: HE WAS A FOOL AND A KNAVE, AND WAS DOOMED FROM THE START!
The End

THE SPIDER

MATT TAYLOR, HEAD OF A MUSEUM EXPEDITION EXPLORING NEAR THE ANCIENT PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT, DOES A FOOLISH AND CARELESS THING IN HIS EXCITEMENT OVER A NEW FIND...
SAY, THIS IS LUCK! THERE SHOULD BE A STONE LEVER IN THIS NICHE - AH, THERE IT IS! NOW IF ONLY IT ISN'T JAMMED, IT SHOULD OPEN THE MAIN DOOR TO THE CRYPT!

A FURIOUS STAB OF PAIN...
AHHHH- A TEMPLE SPIDER BIT ME, AND THEIR BITES ARE ALWAYS FATAL!

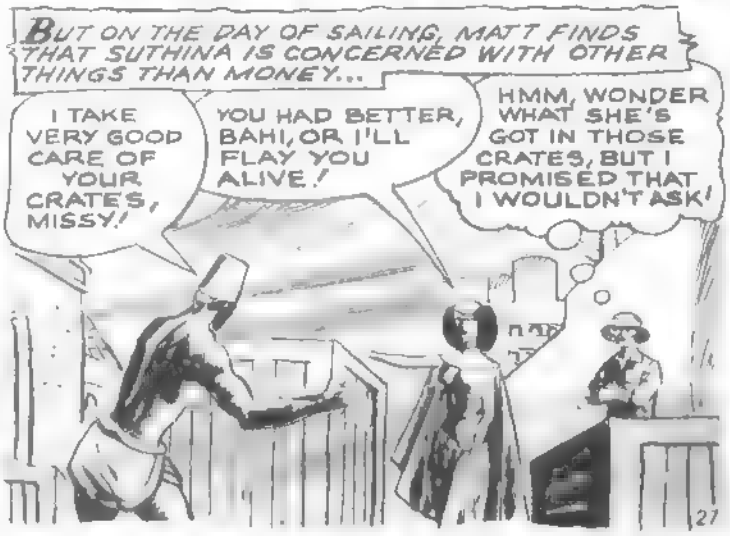

LATER, AS TAYLOR LIES DYING
NO SERUM WILL WORK AGAINST THE BITE OF A TEMPLE SPIDER! THE POOR DEVIL IS DONE FOR!
A ROTTEN SHAME TOO! HE HAD A BRILLIANT FUTURE BEFORE HIM!

SUDDENLY
YOU DESPAIR TOO SOON, GENTLEMEN! I THINK I CAN SAVE YOUR FRIEND!
HUH! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP?

NEVER MIND HOW I SHALL DO IT- BUT I WILL! YOUR FRIEND WILL BE COMPLETELY RECOVERED IN A DAY OR TWO!

SURE ENOUGH A FEW DAYS LATER...
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT, SUTHINA, BUT YOU SAVED MY LIFE! YOU SEEM TO KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THIS COUNTRY AND MY PROFESSION I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU A JOB...
ONLY IF IT MEAN I CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE FOR A TIME!

SO THEY STRIKE A BARGAIN...
I WILL RETURN TO YOUR COUNTRY AND WORK WITH YOU, BUT I MUST MAKE CERTAIN CONDITIONS!
CONDITIONS, EH? I DON'T THINK WE'LL HAVE ANY MONEY PROBLEMS, SUTHINA! WE CAN GET TOGETHER!


BUT ON THE DAY OF SAILING, MATT FINDS THAT SUTHINA IS CONCERNED WITH OTHER THINGS THAN MONEY...
I TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF YOUR CRATES, MISSY!
YOU HAD BETTER, BAHI, OR I'LL FLAY YOU ALIVE!
HMM, WONDER WHAT SHE'S GOT IN THOSE CRATES, BUT I PROMISED THAT I WOULDN'T ASK!

THE TRIP HOME IS UNEVENTFUL..
NOW, SUTHINA, YOU MUSTN'T MIND IF MY WIFE SEEMS A LITTLE CURT AT TIMES!
HA HA! SHE NEED HAVE NO FEAR! I AM NOT INTERESTED IN YOU IN THAT WAY, MATT!

THE TWO WOMEN DISLIKE EACH OTHER IMMEDIATELY..
THIS IS SUTHINA, MOLLY! SHE IS GOING TO HELP ME IN THE LAB, AND SHE'LL BE STAYING HERE!
HOW DO YOU DO, MRS TAYLOR!
HELLO! IF MATT WANTS YOU TO STAY, I'M SURE THERE'S A GOOD REASON!

LATER...
I WANT TO TRY A NEW RESTORER ON THESE MANUSCRIPTS!
YES, BUT I MUST SEE IF MY FIRST CRATES HAVE ARRIVED!

TROUBLE BEGINS!
I INSIST THAT MY CRATES BE STORED IN MY ROOM!
YOU CAN'T UPSET MY HOUSE WITH THESE HORRIBLE CRATES!
NOW, MOLLY, I PROMISED SUTHINA!

BUT SUTHINA WINS, AND ONE DAY NOT LONG AFTERWARDS!
EEEEEEKKE!
A HORRIBLE BLACK SPIDER IN MY HOUSE! I'LL KILL IT!

SUTHINA RUSHES IN!
FOOL! LEAVE IT ALONE! HOW DARE YOU TOUCH ANYTHING OF MINE!
Y-YOURS? THE SPIDER IS YOURS? OWWWW!

YES, MINE! IT IS A PET! NEVER TOUCH IT AGAIN! UNDERSTAND!
YOU'RE INSANE! I'LL SEE THAT YOU LEAVE THIS HOUSE AT ONCE!

UNNERVED BY THE SCENE WITH SUTHINA, MOLLY TAYLOR GOES TO HER ROOM TO SULK

HOW I HATE THAT WOMAN! SHE MUST GET OUT AT ONCE! SPIDERS, UGH! THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HER...

SUDDENLY!

OH-SPIDERS! SO M-MANY OF THEM COMING INTO MY ROOM! AFTER ME! B-BUT WHERE COULD THEY HAVE COME FROM? EEEEEEEEKKK!

M-MORE OF THEM! HUNDREDS! I C-CAN'T GET TO THE D-DOOR! THEY'VE GOT ME TRAPPED! YAAAAAAAGHH!

AFTER THE TERRIBLE SCREAMS FADE AWAY, THE DOOR SOFTLY OPENS, AND THERE IS SUTHINA...

SO, MY PETS, YOU HAVE HAD YOUR MEAL! SOON I WILL HAVE MINE! BUT WE MUST NOT LET OUR UNSUSPECTING MATT FIND US LIKE THIS!

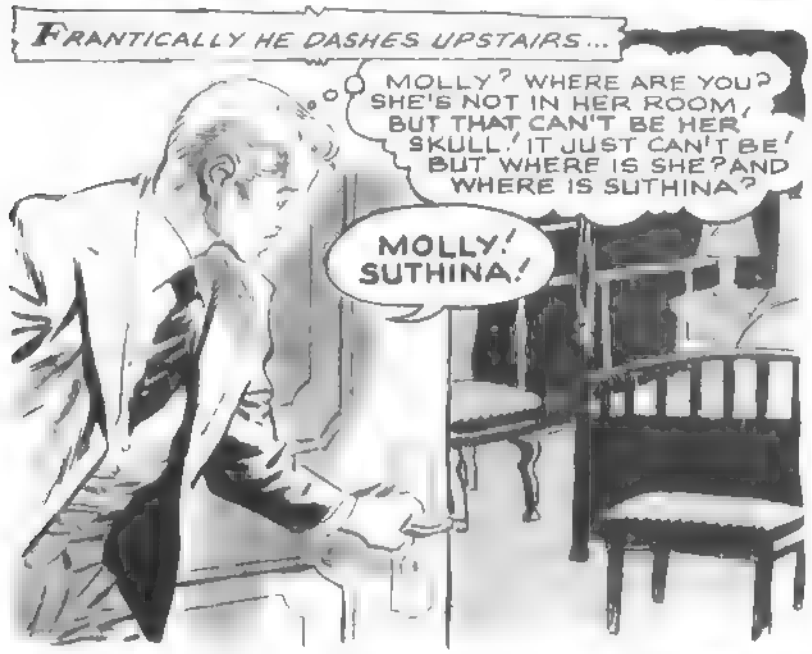
SO WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TIDY UP A BIT! HA, YOU DIDN'T LEAVE MUCH OF HER, DID YOU?

YOU CAN'T EAT BONES, MY PETS, BUT FIRE CAN! NOT A TRACE OF MRS. TAYLOR WILL BE LEFT!

THAT NIGHT WHEN MATT COMES HOME HE DETECTS A STRANGE ODOR IN THE HOUSE...
MOLLY? SUTHINA? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE... SOMETHING BURNING IN THE FURNACE?

THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T LIKE ABOUT THIS SMELL! I KNOW! LIKE THE BURNING GHATS BY THE INDUS RIVER - SCORCHED BONES!

TAYLOR RAKES OUT THE FURNACE AND GETS THE SHOCK OF HIS LIFE!
MY HEAVEN! A HUMAN SKULL FRESHLY BURNED! BUT WHO - AND WHY?


FRANTICALLY HE DASHES UPSTAIRS...
MOLLY? WHERE ARE YOU? SHE'S NOT IN HER ROOM, BUT THAT CAN'T BE HER SKULL! IT JUST CAN'T BE! BUT WHERE IS SHE? AND WHERE IS SUTHINA?
MOLLY! SUTHINA!

YOU CALLED ME, MATT?
I SURE DID! WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE? WHAT'S THAT SKULL DOING IN THE FURNACE? WHERE'S MOLLY?

I'M GOING TO SEARCH YOUR ROOM, SUTHINA! YOU'RE ACTING VERY STRANGELY! IF YOU'VE DONE ANYTHING TO MY WIFE...
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO HER, BUT BY ALL MEANS, ENTER!

GAAAA! A WEB! I'M CAUGHT!
YES, YOU ARE CAUGHT! TRAPPED IN MY WEB, YOU POOR FOOL! I ALWAYS INTENDED THIS FATE FOR YOU! HA HA HA!

GREAT GODFREY, SUTHINIA! W-WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ARE YOU? WHY DID YOU MURDER MOLLY?
I, FOOL WHO IS ABOUT TO DIE, AM QUEEN OF THE TEMPLE SPIDERS!

I SAVED YOUR LIFE ONCE BECAUSE MY VENOM WAS STRONGER THAN THAT OF THE SPIDER THAT BIT YOU! YOU HAVE MADE ME SAFE! MY ENEMIES WILL NEVER FIND ME IN AMERICA!
AAAAAAA

MY SUBJECTS, THOUSANDS OF TEMPLE SPIDERS, WERE IN THOSE CRATES! THEY ATE YOUR WIFE, BUT I WILL EAT YOU!

SOMETIME LATER OUTSIDE THE SINISTER HOUSE...
REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING, AND YOU'LL MAKE YOUR FIRST SALE! THE LITTLE MARVEL NEVER MISSES!
I'LL TRY! I SURE WANT TO MAKE GOOD!

SO... GOOD AFTERNOON, MA'M! MY NAME IS FLY, CHRIS FLY! NOW I HAVE HERE...
YOUR NAME IS WHAT - FLY! DO COME IN! STEP RIGHT INTO MY HOUSE!

HIS NAME IS FLY! OH, NO! THIS IS TOO GOOD! HIS NAME IS HA HA HO HO HEE-FLY! AND HE'S COMING INTO MY PARLOR!
GEE, KIND OF A FUNNY DAME!
THE END

HELLO FOLKS. LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF... I'M THE **NAMELESS ONE!** HEH! HEH! THAT'S THE ONLY MONIKER I HAVE! DRAW UP YOUR CHAIRS WHILE I TELL YOU A CHARMING LITTLE STORY. YOU ALL LOVE SOFT, CUSHY LIVING, BUT THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM. JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE THINGS GOING THE WAY YOU WANT, YOU MAY BE IN FOR A SURPRISE.. BEWARE FRIENDS, OF THE...

SWAMP MONSTERS

RILEY MIRACULOUSLY GOT AWAY AND REACHED THE HIDEOUT OF A TOUGH UNDERWORLD CHARACTER KNOWN AS "GASHOUSE MAME"...
I'M THE ONLY ONE THAT GOT AWAY WITH SIXTY GRAND IN THIS SATCHEL. NOW I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY
I CAN HANDLE IT FOR YOU FOR THIRTY GRAND!
HEY, THAT'S HALF OF ALL I GOT!
MAME DOESN'T OPERATE FOR PEANUTS! TAKE IT, OR LEAVE IT!
ALL RIGHT YOU ROBBER! YOU WIN!
MY FRIEND "THE DUCHESS" WILL GET YOU AWAY TO SOUTH AMERICA. ONCE SHE TAKES CHARGE THE F.B.I. WILL NEVER PICK UP YOUR TRAIail!
SO ABOUT TWO WEEKS LATER-- AFTER BEING SECRETLY SHUNTED FROM HIDEOUT TO HIDEOUT WE FIND RILEY BUMPING ALONG A SWAMPY ROAD SOMEWHERE DEEP IN THE LONELY SILENT FLORIDA EVERGLADES.
THIS AREA SURE IS CREEPY! THE JOINT I'M HEADED FOR CAN'T BE FAR AWAY!
THERE'S THE ONLY HOUSE I'VE SEEN IN TWENTY MILES! THAT MUST BE THE PLACE
Three PEOPLE EMERGED WHEN THE FUGITIVE DREW UP BEFORE THE RAMSHACKLE STRUCTURE..
THIS SURE IS A HOLE! HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE LONG.
HELLO, MR. RILEY! WELCOME TO HOOD'S HAVEN! WE HAVE BEEN EAGERLY EXPECTING YOU! I'M YOUR HOSTESS--THE DUCHESS!

THESE ARE MY RETINUE LULU AND HER LITTLE PLAYMATE BOMBO! THEY WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR BAGS AND THE CAR! COME INSIDE AND MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.

YOU WILL STAY HERE FOR A WHILE UNTIL I ARRANGE FOR YOU TO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY! MAME HAS SENT ME SEVERAL CLIENTS AND I'VE NEVER FAILED!

DON'T MAKE IT TOO LONG, DUCHESS! A THIRD-RATE FLOP-HOUSE WOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS DUMP!

BUT ONCE INSIDE, RILEY WAS ASTOUNDED AS HE GAZED AT THE SUMPTUOUS INTERIOR...

SA-AY! THIS LOOKS MORE LIKE THE WALDORF!

YOU SEE, MR. RILEY... YOU CAN'T TELL ANYTHING FROM THE OUTSIDE! WE HAVE ONLY THE FINEST OF EVERYTHING HERE AND YOU WILL LIVE LIKE A KING!

RILEY RELAXED AS HIS HOSTESS SERVED COCKTAILS

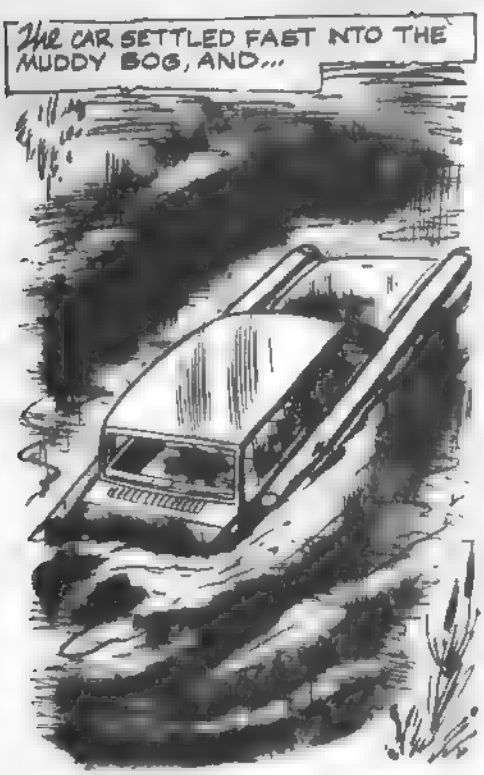
BOY, REAL HAVANA MAGNIFICOS! JUST THE KIND I LIKE! THIS COCKTAIL IS DELICIOUS!

THEN LET ME OFFER A TOAST TO A PLEASANT STAY. WE ALWAYS ENJOY OUR COMPANY. WE HAD A VISITOR UP TO A FEW DAYS AGO

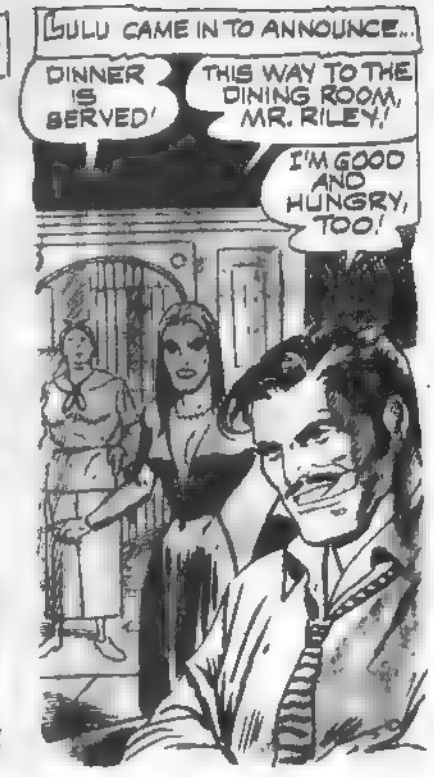
HEY! YOUR MAN'S TAKING THE TIRES OFF MY CAR!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT! ALL TRACE OF THE CAR MUST BE DESTROYED. BUT WE CAN SELL THE TIRES

BOMBO THEN DROVE THE CAR INTO THE SWAMP...


THE CAR SETTLED FAST INTO THE MUDDY BOG, AND...

...IN A FEW MINUTES IT COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED!


LULU CAME IN TO ANNOUNCE...
DINNER IS SERVED!
THIS WAY TO THE DINING ROOM, MR. RILEY!
I'M GOOD AND HUNGRY, TOO!

RILEY CONTINUED TO MARVEL AT THE ELEGANCE WHICH SURROUNDED HIM...
BEAUJOLAIS 1929! THIS IS INDEED SOME CHAMPAGNE, DUCHESS! IT SURE BEATS ME HOW--
NOTHING BUT THE BEST! AS I TOLD YOU, WE WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOURSELF, BECAUSE WE EXPECT TO GAIN A GREAT DEAL FROM YOU!

THIS ROAST IS SO TENDER-- THE MEAT SO SWEET--
AH, OUR MEATS ARE OUR PRIDE, MR. RILEY! LULU TAKES SPECIAL CARE IN THAT DEPARTMENT!

And SO THE DAYS PASSED...
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT BECOMING BORED, MR RILEY!
NO--INDEED! NOT LIVING LIKE THIS IN THE LAP OF LUXURY!

IN FACT-- YOU ARE FATTENING ME UP! HA! HA!
OH, I'M SO GLAD... I ALWAYS DID LIKE A MAN WITH A BIT OF FAT ON HIM!

SHE'S GETTING TO LIKE ME! I COULD DO WORSE THAN STAY RIGHT HERE-- LIVE LIKE THE LORD OF THE MANOR!

LOOK, DUCHESS... YOU RE A PRETTY SWELL BABE! HOW ABOUT FORGETTING ABOUT THE SOUTH AMERICA DEAL, AND YOU AND ME TEAMING UP RIGHT HERE?
WHY, MR. RILEY, A PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE? YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME TIME TO THINK IT OVER

Then... RILEY LOOKED OVER HIS SHOULDER...
HEY- WHAT THE--

I JUST WANT TO ASK, DUCHESS, IF YOU WANT STEAKS OR CHOPS FOR DINNER?
WOW!: YOU HAD ME SCARED FOR A MINUTE:

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR FRESH MEAT OUT IN A GODFORSAKEN PLACE LIKE THIS?
OH, WE HAVE THE MOST MODERN DEEP FREEZE!

ONCE IN A WHILE WHEN LEFT ALONE, RILEY PROWLED THE HOUSE...
WONDER WHAT'S IN THAT CLOSET?

WHEN HE OPENED THE CLOSET DOOR...
YII-I! SKULLS!!

HA, HA, MR. RILEY! I SEE YOU'VE DISCOVERED MY COLLECTION! MY HOBBY IS ANTHROPOLOGY... HOMO SAPIENS IN PARTICULAR!
HMM- SOME HOBBY!

AFTER THAT A SENSE OF FOREBODING OVERTOOK RILEY...
THIS JOINT IS GETTING ON MY NERVES... WISH I COULD GET STARTED TO SOUTH AMERICA!
THE DOUGH'S ALL HERE-- THIRTY GRAND! I COULD HAVE A WHALE OF A TIME WITH THIS IN RIO!
I WANT TO HIT THE ROAD, DUCHESS... WHEN DO I GET STARTED?
BE PATIENT! JUST A FEW DAYS MORE!
THE SUMPTUOUS MEALS SLACKENED OFF AND RILEY WAS HUNGRY! ONE AFTERNOON, HE HEADED FOR THE KITCHEN...
I COULD STAND A BITE BEFORE DINNER!
NOBODY AROUND. THERE'S WHERE THEY KEEP THE MEAT. MAYBE I CAN FRY MYSELF A CHOP
BUT WHEN HE OPENED THE TOP OF THE DEEP-FREEZE BOX...
AI-EEEEEEEE!!

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! IT CAN'T BE TRUE THAT I'VE BEEN EATING HUMAN FLESH! I FEEL SICK!

AN' I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE REASON THEY'VE BEEN FATTENING ME UP LIKE A GOOSE!

...THEY MUST BE PLANNING TO HAVE ME FOR A MEAL OR TWO... BUT THEY'RE WRONG! NOBODY WILL HAVE RILEY FOR DINNER!

...I RISKED TOO MUCH TO GET THIS FAR... MY GANG WAS WIPED OUT IN THAT HEIST AND I WIND UP WITH THE THIRTY GRAND IN A DEN OF CANNIBALS!

GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! ...BEFORE THOSE FLESH-EATERS MISS ME... 30 GRAND... WITH THAT I COULD LIVE THE LIFE OF RILEY!

BOMBO! HE'S HEADED FOR THE SWAMP! STOP HIM! ...USE YOUR ROPE BEFORE HE'S SWALLOWED UP BY THE SWAMP!

...NEATLY ROPED THE PANICKED MAN AND DRAGGED HIM BACK TO FIRM LAND...
GOOD HUNTIN' IN SWAMP TODAY!
YOW!

SURELY YOU DIDN'T THINK WE'D LET THAT UGLY OLD SWAMP EAT YOU UP, DID YOU, MR. RILEY?
EAT--EAT?! UH--LEMME OUT OF HERE!

LEMME GO, DUCHESS. LEMME GO! I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE DOUGH--THIRTY GRAND!
WHY, MR. RILEY... DON'T BE NAIVE. I ALREADY HAVE ALL YOUR MONEY SAFELY TUCKED AWAY!

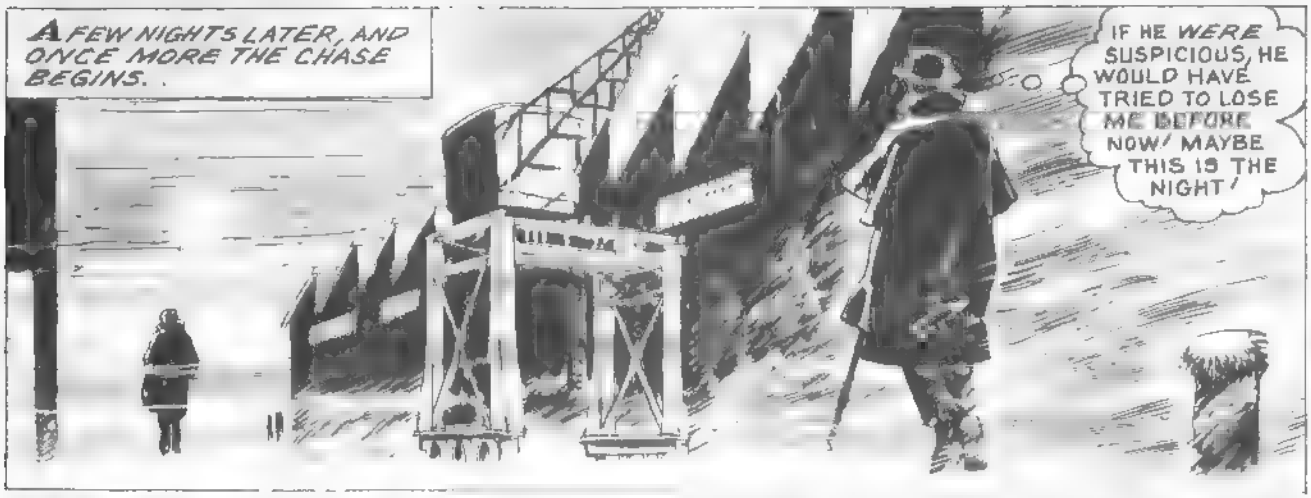
THE LAST THING RILEY SAW WAS BOMBO'S AVID FACE, HIS LIPS DROOLING AND IN HIS UPRAISED HAND, THE HEAVY, GLEAMING, RAZOR-SHARP CLEAVER...

THAT EVENING THE DELIGHTFUL LITTLE GROUP SAT DOWN GRATEFULLY TO THEIR SIMPLE EVENING MEAL WITH EXCELLENT APPETITES...
AS I ALWAYS SAID, I LIKE A MAN WITH A BIT OF FAT ON HIM!
HEH! HEH! LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YOU, DEAR READERS: IF YOU'RE LEADING "THE LIFE OF RILEY" -- BEWARE AND DON'T SAY THE NAMELESS ONE DIDN'T WARN YOU!
HEH! HEH!
THE END!
S
P

FANGS of TERROR

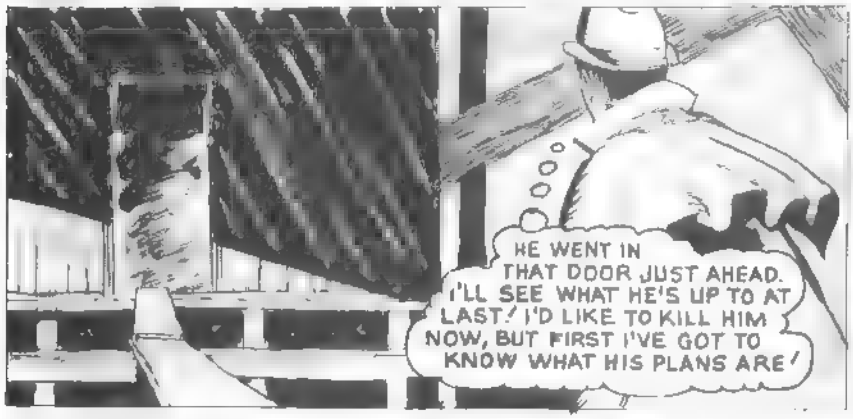
WHAT STRANGE AND SINISTER MISSION BROUGHT THE SINISTER STRANGER TO TOWN? WHO WAS HE, WHENCE DID HE COME, WHAT DID HE WANT? HE KEPT TO HIMSELF, ALWAYS WATCHFUL, ALWAYS WAITING! TALL, GRIM, AUSTERE, HE WAS A MAN WHO WAS DEDICATED TO **DEATH!** HE FREQUENTED THE SORDID PARTS OF THE CITY, THE STINKING GARBAGE STREWN STREETS WHERE THE RATS, HUMAN AND OTHERWISE, PROWLED IN A DEADLY SEARCH FOR PREY! THEN ONE BLEAK NIGHT, THE STRANGER FOUND WHAT HE SOUGHT AND AT LAST, HE KEPT HIS **GRIM APPOINTMENT!**

AND THEN ONE DAY, THE STRANGER SEES HIS QUARRY LEAVE THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR! HIMSELF UNSEEN, HE WATCHES FROM A DARKENED WINDOW AS A SMALL, RODENT-LIKE MAN SCURRIES FURTIVELY AWAY!
AT LAST! THE WAITING HAS BEEN WORTH WHILE NOW I CAN BEGIN TO ENJOY MYSELF!
STEALTHILY, LIKE A GREAT CAT, THE STRANGER FOLLOWS THE LITTLE MAN
HA, THE FOOL IS CONFIDENT! DOESN'T DREAM THAT HE'S BEING FOLLOWED! IT WILL MAKE IT EASIER IN THE END!
INTO AN EVEN POORER SECTION OF THE CITY THE STRANGER FOLLOWS! BOTH MEN ARE NOW SOAKED BY THE WIND LASHED RAIN!
SEEMS TO BE HEADED FOR THE WATERFRONT. HIS KIND ALWAYS SEEK OUT THE WATERFRONTS OF THE WORLD!
THE LITTLE MAN ROUNDS A CORNER AND STOPS, HIS NOSTRILS QUIVERING! HE ACTUALLY SEEMS TO SMELL THE DANGER! FOR A MOMENT HE SNIFFS THE AIR..
AND WHEN THE STRANGER TURNS THE SAME CORNER HE FINDS AN EMPTY STREET
FOOLED ME! HE'S CLEVERER THAN I GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR! I WONDER IF HE COULD HAVE SMELLED ME!
LATER, THE STRANGER PACES HIS ROOM IN DEEP THOUGHT
I'VE BEEN UNDERESTIMATING HIM, AND THAT'S ALWAYS A MISTAKE! I DON'T THINK HE KNEW I WAS FOLLOWING HIM!

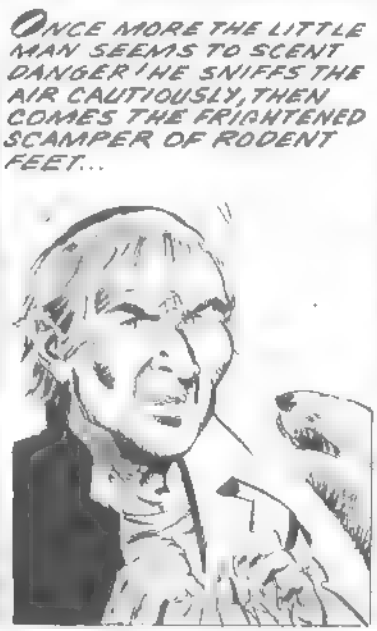

A FEW NIGHTS LATER, AND ONCE MORE THE CHASE BEGINS.
IF HE WERE SUSPICIOUS, HE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO LOSE ME BEFORE NOW! MAYBE THIS IS THE NIGHT!

SO HE LEADS ME TO THIS OLD WAREHOUSE, BY THE WATER, AND NOW HE'S GOING DOWN THROUGH THAT TRAP-DOOR!

WE'RE DOWN UNDER THE DOCKS NOW, AND THERE HE IS! MOVES QUIETLY TOO! HA HA! ALMOST AS QUIETLY AS ME!


HE WENT IN THAT DOOR JUST AHEAD. I'LL SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO AT LAST! I'D LIKE TO KILL HIM NOW, BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT HIS PLANS ARE!

RATS! HUNDREDS OF RATS! WELL, THAT FIGURES! BUT AT LEAST I KNOW! I WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIM!


ONCE MORE THE LITTLE MAN SEEMS TO SCENT DANGER! HE SNIFFS THE AIR CAUTIOUSLY, THEN COMES THE FRIGHTENED SCAMPER OF RODENT FEET...

IN A FLASH THE ROOM IS EMPTY...
THAT TIME HE WAS DEFINITELY ALARMED,---AND HOW DID HE GET OUT?

THE STRANGER GOES BACK TO HIS HIDEOUT...
YES, HE MAY HAVE BEGUN TO SUSPECT BY NOW! BUT THE BEAUTY OF IT IS THAT HE CAN'T BE SURE! AS THE HUNTER I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND DISGUISE MYSELF IN A WAY HE CAN'T PENETRATE!

AS HE ENTERS HIS ROOM, HE SENSES INSTANTLY THAT HE IS NOT ALONE...
SOMEONE IN HERE! IN THE CLOSET OBVIOUSLY!
ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN COME OUT OF THE CLOSET NOW!

AT LAST THEY MEET FACE TO FACE...
YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME, BUT TONIGHT I FOLLOWED YOU AND SLIPPED UP HERE BEFORE YOU!
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU?

BECAUSE I SMELLED YOU, THAT'S WHY! MY SENSE OF SMELL IS VERY ACUTE! ONLY THERE'S SOMETHING PECULIAR ABOUT YOUR SMELL!
PECULIAR ABOUT MY SMELL... MAYBE I'VE PLANNED IT THAT WAY!

MAYBE, BUT YOU'RE IN TROUBLE BUDDY! IF YOU KNEW WHO I REALLY AM, YOU'D DIE OF FRIGHT!
YOU'RE VERY SURE OF YOURSELF!

I GOT A RIGHT TO BE! ME AND MY KIND ARE GONNA RULE THE WORLD! THERE'S MILLIONS OF US NOW, AND MORE EVERY DAY! SO, TAKE A TIP, STRANGER, AND GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN! I'LL LET YOU GO THIS TIME, BUT DON'T LET ME EVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

YOU'RE WRONG! YOU AND YOUR KIND WILL NEVER RULE THE WORLD WHILE I'M ALIVE!
HUH! YOU FOOL! SOMETHING AWFUL STRANGE ABOUT YOU! BUT YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE! NOW I'LL SHOW YOU WHO I AM!
I ALREADY KNOW!
YEAH? WELL NOW YOU CAN BE SURE! BECAUSE I'M THE KING OF THE RATS- AND I'M GONNA GNAW ON YOU!
AND I AM THE KING OF THE CATS! I DISGUISED MY SMELL! BUT YOU COULDN'T HIDE YOURS!
YORWWW!
THE FIGHT IS SWIFT AND DEADLY..
ARRGHHH
AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS I HAVE FOUND AND KILLED HIM! MY JOB IS DONE FOR NOW! BUT THERE ARE OTHER RAT KINGS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD! THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A NEW ONE! A SHARP FANGED CUNNING RAT KING! MY JOB IS TO KILL THE RAT KINGS!
AND THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER VANISHES INTO THE NIGHT..
I MUST GO TO LONDON AT ONCE! THERE IS BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!

ELDRITCH MANOR WAS RICH IN TRADITION! FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, THE ELDRITCHES HAD LIVED THERE..AT FIRST LIKE PETTY RULERS, AND THEN, AS THEIR FORTUNES DECLINED, MERELY AS RICH ECCENTRICS WHO KEPT APART FROM THE BUSTLING ACTIVITY OF THE TOWN! AND NOW..THE FINAL INDIGNITY OF ALL...THERE WERE RUMORS ABOUT...

THE HUNGRY GHOUL

ELLISON ELDRITCH WAS SUMMONED TO THE OFFICE OF THE FAMILY LAWYER! THERE, AFTER THE PRELIMINARIES WERE DISPENSED WITH, HE RECEIVED THE DEED TO HIS ANCESTRAL MANOR!
ELDRITCH MANOR BELONGS TO YOU, ELLISON! IT HAS A NOBLE TRADITION. I KNOW YOU'LL TRY TO UPHOLD IT!
I-I HAVEN'T SEEN THE PLACE SINCE I WAS A SMALL CHILD!

IT'S BEEN WELL PRESERVED! YOUR COUSIN AMBROSE, WHO LEFT IT TO YOU AT HIS DEATH, WAS VERY CAREFUL ABOUT THAT! YOU'LL FIND IT A SPACIOUS HOME, ALTHOUGH A LITTLE LONELY AT FIRST!
I WON'T MIND THAT! I'M NOT MARRIED, YOU KNOW, AND I'M USED TO LIVING ALONE!

A FEW DAYS LATER ELLISON ARRIVED AT THE OLD FAMILY MANSION!
IT'S LIKE COMING HOME AGAIN! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GONE AWAY!

IN THE GREAT ECHOING ENTRANCE HALL, ELLISON STOOD MOTIONLESS, AS A THOUSAND MEMORIES OF HIS CHILDHOOD DRIFTED THROUGH HIS MIND!
I REMEMBER IT ALL NOW!

THERE'S UNCLE JUNIPER! HE WAS MASTER OF THE HOUSE THEN! I ALWAYS THOUGHT HIM A QUEER OLD MAN!

GRANDFATHER MARTIN! I NEVER SAW HIM! BUT I HEARD STORIES ABOUT HIM! HE WAS CERTAINLY A LITTLE ECCENTRIC!

AND DEAR COUSIN AMBROSE! SUCH A FUSSY OLD MAN! A NATURAL HERMIT TYPE! WHEN HE BECAME MASTER HERE, HE SHUT HIMSELF UP IN THIS HOUSE AND NEVER STIRRED OUTSIDE OF IT!

BUT THEY'RE ALL ELDRITCHES, AND I'M PROUD OF THEM! NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN BOAST OF A FAMILY TRADITION THAT DATES BACK NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED YEARS!

AFTER GOING THROUGH THE OLD HOUSE, REDOLENT WITH SO MANY MEMORIES, ELLISON PAID A VISIT TO THE FAM LY MAUSOLEUM, A GIANT STRUCTURE OF LIMESTONE AND MARBLE ON THE LAWN OF THE MANOR HOUSE! HEH! HEH! IF HE ONLY KNEW!
ALL OF MY ANCESTORS ARE BURIED HERE!

EACH ONE HAS A SEPARATE CHAMBER WITH HIS COFFIN IN IT! THINK OF IT! GENERATION AFTER GENERATION LIES BURIED HERE!

GRANDFATHER MARTIN! HIS SKELETON IS ALREADY STARTING TO MOLDER INTO DUST!

GENTLY WITH A FEELING OF AWE AND REVERENCE, ELLISON CLOSED THE MARBLE LID OF THE COFFIN!
THE COFFIN'S NEVER BEEN SEALED! GRANDFATHER MARTIN KNEW THAT NO ONE BUT AN ELDRITCH WOULD EVER NVADE THIS PLACE!

SOMEDAY I'LL BE BURIED HERE, TOO! I'M GLAD TO KNOW THAT! I'LL BECOME PART OF THE ELDRITCH TRADITION... AND NO STRANGER WILL EVER DISTURB MY REST AND PEACE!

ARE YOU THINKING PERHAPS, THAT ELLISON IS A LITTLE TOO MORBID A PERSONALITY? WELL, HE IS AN ELDRITCH, YOU KNOW!
AND THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE OLD MANOR THAT AFFECTS MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY THAT WAY! THEY ALL GET A LITTLE MORBID!

AS THE WEEKS PASSED, ELLISON FELL INTO THE HABIT OF VISITING THE FAMILY MAUSOLEUM! HE LIKED THE FEELING OF BEING SURROUNDED BY THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF HIS OWN KITH AND KIN! AND THEN, ONE MORNING, AS HE WENT THROUGH THE MAUSOLEUM HALLS...
AMBROSE'S COFFIN! IT'S OPEN!

SOMEONE HAS BEEN HERE! AMBROSE'S BODY HAS BEEN... OHHH! THE FIENDISH GHOULS!

THE SAME DAY ELLISON VISITED A STORE IN TOWN TO PLACE A STRANGE ORDER!
I WANT A STEEL TRAP! BIG ENOUGH TO CATCH A MAN!
A STEEL TRAP? Y-YES, MR ELDRITCH!

I WONDER WHAT YOUNG ELDRITCH WANTS WITH A TRAP THAT SIZE? AIN'T NO BIG ANIMALS AROUND HIS PLACE!
HE'S A QUEER ONE, JUST LIKE THE REST OF HIS FAMILY!

ELLISON ELDRITCH BROUGHT THE HUGE TRAP TO THE MAUSOLEUM AND PLANTED IT NEAR THE ENTRANCE WHERE ANY STRANGER ENTERING WOULD BE SURE TO STEP INTO IT IN THE DARKNESS! IF HE ONLY KNEW!

IF THAT GHOUL COMES HERE AGAIN, HE'LL GET A SHOCK! I HOPE IT KILLS HIM! A FIEND LIKE THAT DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE!

ELLISON RETIRED FOR THE NIGHT THEN, AND SLEPT A TROUBLED SLEEP HAUNTED BY STRANGE VISIONS!
W-WHO'S THAT? I-I THOUGHT I HEARD AMBROSE CALLING OUT!

AMBROSE SEEMED TO BE BEGGING FOR MERCY! IT MUST HAVE BEEN A NIGHTMARE! BUT IT SEEMED SO REAL! I'LL HURRY OVER TO THE MAUSOLEUM RIGHT AWAY!

WHEN ELLISON ENTERED THE MAUSOLEUM, HE RECEIVED AN UNWELCOME SURPRISE! THE STEEL TRAP HAD BEEN CAREFULLY MOVED TO ONE SIDE... OUT OF THE WAY OF THE INTRUDER!
THE GHOUL HAS BEEN HERE... AGAIN!

AMBROSE'S BODY! IT··IT'S BEEN DISTURBED! HOW CAN ANYONE DESECRATE THE DEAD? HOW CAN HUMAN BEINGS SINK SO LOW?

HORRIFIED AND REVOLTED BY WHAT HE SAW, ELLISON WASTED NO TIME N NOTIFYNG THE POLICE! TWO PATROLMEN WERE ASSIGNED TO GUARD THE ELDRITCH MAUSOLEUM!
BRRR! A MIGHTY COLD NIGHT!
JUST MAKE CERTAIN YOU DON'T LEAVE! NOT FOR AN INSTANT! OR I'LL REPORT YOU TO YOUR SUPERIORS!
ELDRITCH

A NICE FRIENDLY FELLOW, I CALL HIM! DOESN'T CARE WHETHER WE FREEZE OR NOT. MIGHT AT LEAST HAVE OFFERED US A CUP OF COFFEE!
HE'S A LOT MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE DEAD FOLKS IN THERE, THAN ABOUT THE LIVING!

NOW ELLISON KNEW WHAT GRANDFATHER MARTIN SUSPECTED ABOUT THE GHOUL'S IDENTITY! YOU SEE, GRANDFATHER WAS A GHOUL, TOO, AS WERE ALL THE ELDRITCHES THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER SEALED THEIR COFFINS! THEY WANTED THE NEXT ELDRITCH GHOUL TO HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT! HEH! HEH!

END

THE DEADLY CORPSE

ANDREW GRANGER WAS ONE WEEK DEAD... BUT NOTHING COULD KEEP HIM LYING IN HIS GRAVE.. NOTHING EXCEPT A BOOK THAT CONTAINED THE FEARFUL SECRET OF... **RAISING THE DEAD!**

LATE ONE AUTUMN DAY, CHARLES VENABLE TURNED UP THE PUDDLE-FILLED DRIVEWAY OF A NEGLECTED ESTATE..THE HOME OF CARL GRANGER!

EVERY THING ABOUT THE PLACE LOOKED **DEAD!** THE GROUNDS, THE MANSION, THE STAINED MARBLE TERRACE, EVERYTHING!

..THEY'VE LET EVERYTHING GO TO RUIN...**WHY?**

CHARLES VENABLE SOON FOUND SOMETHING HERE THAT REVOLTED HIM! SOMETHING ABNORMALLY EVIL...
IT EVEN SMELLS BAD! I OUGHT TO TURN AROUND AND GO BACK!
KNOCK KNOCK

BUT-- CHARLES VENABLE KNOCKED ON THE THICK DOOR AND WAS ADMITTED!
YOU MUST BE MY NEW SECRETARY! COME IN! PLEASE EXCUSE THE WAY THIS PLACE LOOKS!
RATHER NEGLECTED, I'D SAY!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? THE THINGS OF THE MATERIAL WORLD DO NOT COUNT! LET IT ROT! THIS WAY, PLEASE!

TELL ME, MR. VENABLE, ARE YOU AFRAID OF DEATH? OF THE DYING? OF THE DEAD?
N-NO MORE THAN THE NEXT MAN: BUT WHAT HAS THAT TO DO AS MY JOB AS A SECRETARY?

YOU'LL SEE! YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR MANY STRANGE THINGS! THIS WAY, PLEASE... TO MY STUDY!

Y-YOUR STUDY? W-WHAT ARE THOSE?
CORPSES! I USE DEAD MEN IN MY RESEARCH! DID THE AGENCY TELL YOU I NEED A MAN WHO CAN READ SANSKRIT?

I MUST HAVE CERTAIN PASSAGES TRANSLATED TO COMPLETE MY STUDIES! HERE... PLEASE TRANSLATE FROM THIS BOOK!

WHY, T-THIS BOOK... IT... IT'S ABOUT BRINGING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE!
AND VICE VERSA! PLEASE READ ALOUD!

"SOME SAY THE DEAD CANNOT RETURN! THAT WHEN THEY ARE ABROAD IN THE LAND THEY CANNOT BE SENT BACK TO THEIR GRAVES! THIS IS FALSE! WE KNOW A MAGIC SAYING THAT CAN MAKE THE DEAD LIE STILL!
I MUST HAVE THAT FORMULA!

I MUST HAVE IT, YOU HEAR? IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS BOOK!
WHY DO YOU NEED A MAGIC FORMULA FOR RETURNING THE DEAD TO THEIR GRAVES?

THERE! YOU HEAR IT? THAT SLITHERING SOUND ALONG THE HALLWAY?
SSSSSSS
YES! WHAT IS IT?

I HEAR IT EVERY NIGHT! I'M AFRAID TO LOOK!
I'LL OPEN THE DOOR AND SEE WHAT IT IS!
SSSSHHH!

NO! NOT YET! NOT UNTIL I HAVE THAT MAGIC FORMULA!
BUT WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND OUT THERE?

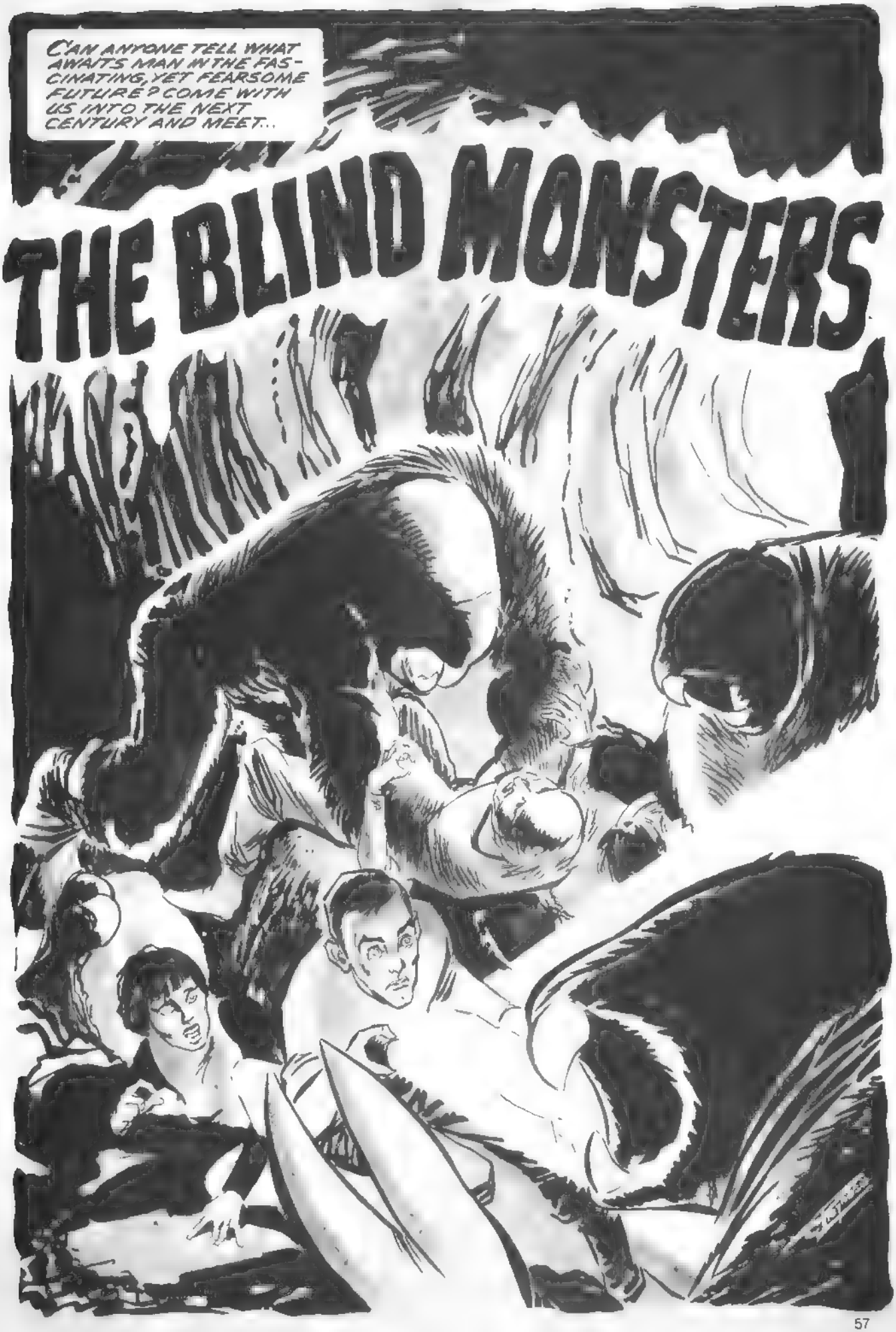
I--I DON'T KNOW! BUT IF YOU FIND THE FORMULA... THEN I CAN OPEN THE DOOR! THEN I CAN DARE FACE WHATEVER IT IS!

THAT'S WHY YOU MUST FIND THAT PASSAGE! ONLY THAT MAGIC FORMULA CAN SAVE ME NOW! SAY YOU WILL FIND IT, VENABLE! SAY IT!
I'LL TRY, SIR!

And so, VENABLE TOOK THE JOB! HE BEGAN TO READ DAY AND NIGHT! HE DID NOTHING BUT TRANSLATE! GRANGER REFUSED TO LET HIM REST!
YOU MUST GO ON! YOU MUST FIND THAT MAGIC PHRASE SOMEWHERE IN THE BOOK!
THE PRINT IS SO FINE! THE LANGUAGE IS SO DIFFICULT!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? MY LIFE'S AT STAKE! I... THE SOUND! IT'S BACK AGAIN!
WHY DON'T WE SEE WHAT IT IS? I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK!
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T LET IT INTO THE ROOM! YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP TRANSLATING!
BUT HOW CAN I WITH THAT THING CRAWLING AROUND?
NOW IT'S POUNDING ON THE DOOR!
GO AWAY! GO AWAY, I TELL YOU! LEAVE ME ALONE!
THE POUNDING IS LOUDER! STRONGER! VENABLE, PLEASE HELP ME!
BUT THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT WAIT FOR THE POUNDING TO STOP... YET, THE NEXT NIGHT THE POUNDING GREW BOLDER AND WOKE VENABLE... HE GRASPED THE SWORD FROM THE KNIGHT AND RACED INTO THE HALL...
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
GET AWAY FROM HERE! GO... OR I'LL KILL YOU!
YEEIII!
WHAM
WHACK

HAS IT GONE, VENABLE?
YES! BUT YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME!
I CAN'T! I MUSTN'T! I-I CAN'T TELL ANYONE!
YOU'LL TALK, GRANGER, OR I WALK OUT OF THIS HOUSE RIGHT NOW!
COME INSIDE MY STUDY, VENABLE! EACH TIME HE RETURNS HE GETS STRONGER AND BOLDER!
HE? WHO?
"MY BROTHER... ANDREW! WE WERE BOTH STUDENTS OF SORCERY! WE WERE STUDYING HOW TO BRING BACK THE DEAD! ANDREW WAS BRILLIANT, AND I WAS JEALOUS..."
YOU'RE JEALOUS, CARL!
WHY NOT? YOU'RE THE BRILLIANT ONE, NOT ME!
"THE IDEA THAT ANDREW WAS SMARTER THAN I WAS DESTROYING ME! SO ONE NIGHT I TOOK UP A KNIFE...
DIE! DIE, GENIUS!
EEEAHH!
"I STABBED HIM UNTIL I WAS ARM WEARY! THEN I BURIED HIM IN THE GARDEN! NO ONE KNOWS WHERE ANDREW IS... OR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM EXCEPT ME!"
EACH NIGHT HE RETURNS-- FROM HIS GRAVE! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOT TO FIND THAT FORMULA! WE MUST KEEP ANDREW IN HIS GRAVE!
COUNT ME OUT! I WON'T HELP A MURDERER!

WHEN THE POLICE CAME THEY FOUND ONE BODY DECAPITATED! THE OTHER LAY NEARBY WITH A SURGICAL SAW IN ITS CLAMMY HAND...


CAN ANYONE TELL WHAT AWAITS MAN IN THE FASCINATING, YET FEARSOME FUTURE? COME WITH US INTO THE NEXT CENTURY AND MEET...
THE BLIND MONSTERS

IN A FUTURAMIC CITY, A GREAT EVENT IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE!
AND SO WE TAKE OFF FOR THE UNKNOWN PLANET ON WHICH WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE LIFE EXISTS! WISH US LUCK!
WE'LL SOON SEE IF OUR CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, MYRNA
HERE'S HOPING, CLAUDE!
THERE! THEY ARE! LOOK OUT THERE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, PROFESSOR! STAND BY FOR A LANDING! ALERT THE OTHERS!
THE AIR IS BREATHABLE, BUT THERE'S NOT A SIGN OF LIFE ANYWHERE!
STRANGE! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE WE COULD HAVE BEEN SO WRONG ABOUT IT!
JOCK! TAKE THREE MEN AND MAKE PRELIMINARY EXPLORATIONS
RIGHT, CLAUDE! WE'LL START NOW!

THE QUARTETTE SEARCHES FRUITLESSLY ON THE SURFACE OF THE BARREN PLANET! THEN SUDDENLY...
JOCK, ARE YOU SURE?
POSITIVE! I SAW SOMETHING DART INTO THIS HOLE! C'MON!
FANTASTIC! ENDLESS CATACOMBS AND TUNNELS!
PERHAPS FROM AN ANCIENT UNDERGROUND CIVILIZATION!
BUT AS THE GROUP INSPECTS THE CAVERN, THEIR PRESENCE IS DETECTED AND RESENTED BY A GROTESQUE BAND OF ITS HIDEOUS RESIDENTS WHO ATTACK WITH SAVAGE FEROCITY!
GRRpH!
WE'RE TRAPPED!

AIEEE! NO!
GRMMP!
AGRAAA!
THE GRUESOME ENCOUNTER IS SHORT-LIVED AND THE INTRUDERS VANQUISHED HORRIBLY.
GRRMMF!
WHILE BACK AT THE ROCKET-SHIP.
I'M WORRIED! THEY SHOULD HAVE RETURNED BY NOW!
IT'S TIME TO FIND OUT FOR OURSELVES!
LOOKS LIKE THE ENTRANCE TO AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL! I WONDER IF JOCK...
WE'LL SOON KNOW!

UPON ENTERING THE CAVERN, THE PARTY LEARNS THE TRUTH!
DEAD! SLAUGHTERED! BUT HOW! BY WHAT?
THE GHASTLY ANSWER IS SOON FORTHCOMING!
LOOK!
THEY'RE MONSTERS!
GRRMPH!
RUN! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
AIEEE! A BLANK WALL!
THEY'RE GAINING ON US!
TRAPPED! THIS LOOKS LIKE GOODBYE!
GRRMPH!
NO! AIEEEK!
GRRMPH!
AGRAAA!

THE SAVAGE CREATURES ATTACK WITH UNBRIDLED FURY! BUT AS THEY GO, A SECOND BAND OF EYE-LESS ONES INTERCEPTS THEM!
GRMPH!
LOOK! MORE OF THEM! THEY SEEM TO BE ON OUR SIDE!
A BRIEF BUT HORRIBLE BATTLE FOLLOWS... AND SOON THE FIRST BAND OF MONSTERS IS CUT TO RIBBONS...
THE LEADER OF THE SECOND BAND ATTEMPTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE HUMANS!
I THINK HE WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM!
WE'D BETTER! BESIDES THEY DON'T SEEM HOSTILE TO US!
I WONDER WHERE THEY'RE TAKING US?
WITHOUT EYES, HOW DO THEY KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING?
WELL! LOOKS TO ME LIKE A COURTROOM OR SOMETHING!
IT'S EVIDENT THAT THEY HAVE THEIR OWN PRIMITIVE CIVILIZATION!
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO SAY!
THEY MAKE SOUNDS LIKE CREATURES WHO WERE ONCE CAPABLE OF SPEECH!
GRMMPH!

I THINK I CAN READ HIS SIGNS! HE'S TELLING US THAT THIS IS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE EYELESS PEOPLE! AND THAT THOSE WHO ATTACKED US WERE OUT LAWS. NOW HE WANTS US TO LEAVE THE PLANET!
THE MONSTERS PROVIDE THEIR UNWELCOME GUESTS WITH SAFE CONDUCT BACK TO THEIR SHIP.
FRANKLY, I'LL BE GLAD TO LEAVE THIS PLANET MYSELF!
THOSE HIDEOUS MONSTERS! MURDERERS!
GLADLY!
STILL, CLAUDE, I'VE SEEN ENOUGH TO CONVINCE ME THAT AT ONE TIME A MORE COMPLEX CIVILIZATION DID EXIST ON THIS PLANET!
YOU WERE RIGHT, PROFESSOR! I GUESS THIS PROVES THERE WAS A CIVILIZATION OF SOME SORT HERE AT ONE TIME!
LOOK! THE REMAINS OF A STRANGE STATUE OR MONUMENT!
VAST CENTURIES OLD, I'M CERTAIN! WAIT UNTIL WE TELL THEM OF THIS BACK HOME ON MARS!
SO THE EYELESS ONES ARE THE ONLY REMAINS OF OUR CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT TODAY! IS THAT THE DESTINY IN STORE FOR THE EARTH? FORTUNATELY OUR GENERATION WILL NEVER KNOW!
END

THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT... ANY CLERK WILL TELL YOU THAT, BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER...

SATAN'S CAT

ENTER, MONSIEUR! YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME, EH?
TRUE, BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I KNOW MANY THINGS... NOW HOW CAN I SERVE YOU?
WELL, ER--

CAN I TALK HERE?
CERTAINLY! DIABLO WILL NOT TELL YOUR SECRET!

I WANT YOU TO MURDER MY WIFE!

MURDER IS SUCH A HORRIBLE WORD, MONSIER... LET'S SAY... DO AWAY WITH!
CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL... BUT IT MUST BE SOON!

BUT WHAT IS YOUR HURRY? SERVICES LIKE THIS CANNOT BE RUSHED!
BUT IT HAS TO BE! SHE PLANS TO RUN AWAY WITH A YOUNGER MAN NEXT FRIDAY!

TELL ME ABOUT HER! THERE MUST BE NO MISTAKES AS TO HER IDENTITY! IN MY BUSINESS, ONE CANNOT AFFORD TO MAKE A MISTAKE!
WELL, SHE'S TALL, BLONDE, STRIKING TO LOOK AT AND SHE HAS A TINY SCAR ON HER LEFT CHEEK!

HMM... THAT'S ABOUT ALL, I GUESS... OH, YES... HER NAME IS...
NO NAMES, MONSIEUR! ONE CANNOT BE TOO CAREFUL IN MY OCCUPATION!

ANY HABIT? ANYTHING AT ALL! SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HELP ME PERFORM THIS, ER... SERVICE!
YES--COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE HAS A GREAT FONDNESS FOR LICORICE... AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE BOTH DO... BUT THAT MIGHT HELP YOU!

LICORICE, EH? THEN IT SHOULD BE SIMPLE TO ARRANGE! A LITTLE PRICK OF THE NEEDLE ON A FEW PIECES AND THEN... IT'S ALL OVER!
DON'T DESCRIBE IT! I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

SORRY, MONSIER, I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE SO SQUEAMISH! BUT NOW TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND!
YES, YOUR FEE! I WILL DOUBLE IT IF YOU CAN DO A RUSH JOB FOR ME!

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU, SIR, BUT YOU KNOW THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT--- AND I HAVE ANOTHER SERVICE TO PERFORM BEFORE YOURS!
WHAT LUCK! BUT YOU WILL DO IT BEFORE FRIDAY, WON'T YOU?

CERTAINLY! IT SEEMS LIKE A FAIRLY SIMPLE JOB! THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY COMPLICATIONS!
GOOD! WELL, THEN, HERE'S YOUR MONEY!

THANK YOU, SIR ...THANK YOU! NOW, REMEMBER... DON'T EVER CONTACT ME AGAIN...UNLESS OF COURSE YOU SHOULD EVER FIND NEED OF MY SERVICES!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT... I'M GOING ABROAD VERY SHORTLY!

HAVE A NICE TRIP, SIR... AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING-- I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING BY FRIDAY!
ALL RIGHT, THEN! BUT I WISH YOU COULD DO THIS SERVICE FIRST! OH, WELL, I GUESS YOU KNOW YOUR BUSINESS BEST!

THE IMPATIENCE OF SOME PEOPLE, EH, DIABLO? COME... LET US PREPARE FOR THE OTHER ASSIGNMENT!

THIS WILL BE SIMPLER THAN I IMAGINED... ELDERLY MAN... SLIGHT SCAR ON FORHEAD... WEARS SPATS... LIKES LICORICE... WIFE WANTS TO DO AWAY WITH HIM!

IF HE ONLY KNEW... BUT THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT... ONLY-- FIRST COME FIRST SERVED! HEH...HEH...HEH!
THE END